

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 DLOS-04 SAL-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INT-05 EB-07 COME-00 SP-02

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R 012246Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8996
INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL ST JOHNS
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, CA, US

SUBJECT: FISHERIES: U.S. -CANADA BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS

FOR OES DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RIDGWAY

1. DURING COURSE OF FEBRUARY 26 COURTESY CALL ON FISHERIES MINISTER LEBLANC, INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES DIRECTOR-GENERAL LEGAULT REPORTED TO AMBASSADOR THAT CANADIAN OFFICIALS WERE GREATLY ENCOURAGED WITH RESULTS OF RECENT SEATTLE SALMON MEETING AND ATTRIBUTED RESULTS IN GOOD MEASURE TO FACT THAT MEETING WAS GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AND WITHOUT INHIBITING PRESENCE OF INDUSTRY ADVISORS. GOC, WHILE NOT WISHING TO UNDERESTIMATE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS AHEAD ON THIS ISSUE, IS VERY ANXIOUS TO MOVE FORWARD AND HOPEFULLY TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS ON A SALMON AGREEMENT IN MAY. LEGAULT NOTED NEED OF BOTH SIDES TO SENSITIZE THEIR SALMON INDUSTRIES TO NEED TO FOREGO GROWTH IN NEAR TERM IN ORDER TO REAP REWARDS OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE. IN LEGAULT'S VIEW, PROGRESS AT SEATTLE MEETING WAS SUCH THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD FEEL CONFIDENT TO PROCEED WITH EXTENSION OF RECIPROCAL FISHING AGREEMENT WHICH DUE TO EXPIRE APRIL 24.

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WM MINISTER LEBLANC CONCURRED IN LEGAULT VIEWS AND OUTLINED FOR AMBASSADOR ENOURMOUS PRESSURES ON HIS DEPARTMENT AND GOC TO ACHIEVE 200-MILE ZONE EITHER UNILATERALLY OR THROUGH LOS DELIBERATIONS WITHOUT FURTHER PROTRACTED DELAY. REGARDLESS OF HOW DESIRED RESULT IS ACHIEVED, LEBLANC EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. AND CANADA MUST STILL RECOGNIZE FACT THAT OUR WATERS AND FISH WILL CO-MINGLE AND THAT NEW COMPREHENSIVE RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT WILL BE URGENTLY REQUIRED IN FUTURE TO GOVERN OUR FISHING RELATIONS. IN HIS VIEW, ANY "STING" IN COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT COVERING BOTH EAST AND WEST COASTS CAN BE SUBSTANTIALLY MITIGATED BY FIRST HAVING PLACED SALMON FISHING UNDER A SEPARATE AGREEMENT AND BY POSSIBLY DEFERRING CERTAIN BOUNDARYDISPUTES TO LATTER SETTLEMENT. LEBLANC ALSO DID NOT REPEAT NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT ANY "COMPREHENSIVE" AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO RECOGNIZE CERTAIN SPECIAL FISHING INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS PECULIAR ON BOTH SIDES TO THE EAST AND WEST COAST INDUSTRIES. LEBLANC PREDICTED THAT CANADIAN FISHING INDUSTRY WILL FACE EVEN HARDER TIMES IN 1976 THAN IN PAST. THIS PROGNOSTICATION MAY ACCOUNT FOR EVIDENT GOC SENSE OF URGENCY IN MOVING AHEAD AT THIS TIME ON RESOLVING LONG OUTSTANDING U.S.- CANADIAN ISSUES. ENDERS

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